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FRANCE LOOKS AT FRENCH CLAIMS.

While the debt experts are in Germany, examining the situation at Berlin, the French authorities are beginning to look into matters at home. Premier Poincare has not entirely emerged from a stubborn fight over the budget, which entails a still heavier rate of taxation for the French people, already grievously burdened.

Anticipating the collection of indemnity, the French government set about feverishly to reconstruct the devastated areas, and has made commendable progress in this direction. It has involved the liberal and almost prodigal expenditure of money, accompanied by what is now growing into a suspicion that all is not wisely nor even well done.

M. Riebel, minister for the liberated area, has just brought into the chamber of deputies a request that all French claims for damages above 500,000 francs be re-examined. He charges that the chairman of the committee of the chamber that has handled these matters has been unduly liberal in allowing claims.

Should it be determined, after inquiry, that these big French bills for damage have been stretched, then the wisdom of the Dawes committee will be plain than ever. One of the principal blunders of the peacemakers was the assessing of the enormous indemnity against the Germans without full and careful investigation as to what was due.

ANDERSON KNEW BETTER.

Now and then a jury turns up whose members are skeptical when it comes to miracles. They have been told all about Santa Claus and the like, and have become hard-boiled, so to speak. One of these juries listened to the tale told by William H. Anderson, head of the Anti-Saloon league in New York. Also they listened to witnesses for the state.

As a witness before the senate committee Miss Lape seems to think more highly of her rights as an American citizen than some of the inquisitive senators do of their privileges as senators.

Congressmen should take due note that the people are doing a little congressional investigating themselves these days, and the report is due Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

ANCIENT CUSTOM STILL HONORED.

One of man's first discoveries was that he was not personally equal to combat with all other brutes. Some of them he could vanquish but more he could not. He therefore provided himself with what has come to be known in the vernacular as "the odds."

Now the great problem is to get men to disarm, to quit gun-totin' and settle down to the condition of quiet, orderly members of society. One of the great difficulties, an obstacle almost insurmountable, is that the powers that prey are invariably armed.

hand-to-hand fight of some sort, and one of the greatest of heroes is the two-gun fighter. Very few of these ever lived; here and there a man became really expert as a two-gun handler, but seldom was there a real fighter of the sort.

Senator Copeland of New York asks that a license fee of \$100 be collected for every pistol sold, and that cartridges be priced at not less than 11 each. This would disarm the peaceable, but would have no effect on the criminal, who seldom buys either weapon or ammunition.

What is to be the end? An inspired frontier reporter once wrote of the "sad, sweet note of the six-shooter, cooing to its mate in the night," and that note still is heard where men of peace love silence.

WHEN THE CALENDAR WABBLES.

One of the little questions that comes up to puzzle folks every fourth year is, "Why is leap year?" The easiest answer is "because." That does not tell the whole story, however.

Spring and autumn were added in due process, and then months came to perplex and in some ways annoy. First these were based on the moon, producing a year that varies, as in the Jewish calendar from 353 to 385 days in length.

This fairly well balances the reckoning, yet leaves something just short of accuracy. The "tropical" year, which means the time of the earth in passing between two equinoxes, is 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, 46 seconds in length.

However, few of us need worry about the calendar being disarranged. As at present adjusted the difference between the civil and natural year will amount to one day in about fifty centuries, or looking ahead from now, February will have 30 days in 6924, which will be soon enough.

The declaration by Assistant Prohibition Commissioner Jones that his evidence agents often have to drink liquor is likely to cause a rush of applicants. It might be well to have ambulances handy to take care of those injured in the crush.

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Now they are using gasoline fumes to hasten the golden color of California citrus fruits. Gasoline fumes have often hastened the golden harp period.

The inventor of the coffee percolator died the other day. The coffee speculator still lives, however.

At any rate the pipeline leading into Washington seems to be pretty effectually clogged.

Homepun Verse

By Omaha's Own Poet—
Robert Worthington Davis
DOWN THE TRAILS OF YESTERDAY.
When I hasten through the country,
And I see the birds a-wing,
And the hens go clucking gaily,
Just as though they lived to sing.

"The People's Voice"

Editorials from readers of The Morning Bee. Readers of The Morning Bee are invited to use this column freely for expression on matters of public interest.

Swats at O'Neill's Munchausen.

Farragut, 1st.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Your issue of the 14th inst. published an article from O'Neill, Neb., to the effect that carp fish, all supposed, in some of the smaller lakes down about Chambers, Holt county, were migrating to the larger lakes some 20 miles distant, through the deep woods of the valley. Now, we people over here in good old Iowa have never become acquainted with fish of such great sagacity, so we beg leave to write to some of these carp and have them come over.

From an Old-Time Farmer.

Hampton, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: I am an old boy seed. I lived 14 years in Maine, My father was a ship builder, what he did not know about farming would fill a book.

Eight-Hour Day in the Steel Industry.

It seems generally agreed that it is now only a matter of time before the eight-hour shift becomes practically a thing of the past in the industry of the United States. The reason for this is seen in the fact that, while it is true that the change from the 12-hour and 14-hour shifts causes an increase in the cost of production, the greater efficiency of the workers and the condition of bettered citizenship which accompany the change more than offset the increased cost.

"Polly Titan" on Johnson.

York, Neb.—To the Editor of The Omaha Bee: Senator Johnson is out on the stump crowing to attract attention. When he gets that he starts all six cylinders working in high to get the voters to believe that he is doing it right, and then some thing in his day dreams that no one else can see. He is very much against the League of Nations. He is no more against the latter than I am, but he does not seem to see any difference between helping arbitrate a trouble between nations and helping A beat up B. Yet he once had great hopes of The Hague peace plan, as backed by ex-President Roosevelt. This is a little bit of an advance of that plan, so why should he oppose it?

My opinion is that it is because he wants to be president again, and he has just as much right to be president or to try to be as anyone. Generally speaking, that is true, but under the present condition, I am out to deny that right.

Four years ago he was out for the same high office, but when the noses were up in the air, he was found a few feet short. Then the voters were asked to do just what his lodge or any other society would have done. That was to offer him second place, which he did, and Senator Johnson is no more. Then they turned to that fine, sturdy New Englander, Calvin Coolidge.

He did not want it, as he thought he had another job in mind, and that was not complete yet; but when they pressed the call he said: "I am in the hands of the party and if they think I can better serve them and the country there I will accept it."

And, by virtue of that splendid trait of his of loyal obedience he is today president of the United States. He is not striving for, but which he would now hold had he been willing to give and serve instead of dictating or bossing the party. So today it matters not what his abilities may be in some lines, he sure has some weak points that overbalance them.

How he or any other politician figured out that he has any claim on the party vote for that office at this time is beyond my vision.

I say, he is a splendid speech-maker to settle his case for good and plenty. When he gets out his tar can and brush and mud piddle and classes Henry Ford, Calvin Coolidge with Red Bill Hayward, and Emma Gold, man, he is not only going too far—it sure is the limit. Then he takes the politicians—they are surely had if worse than that. POLLY TITAN.

Rambles.
A couple of tourists passing through Georgia came across a road of whose destination they were uncertain. Seeing an old negro woman on a porch they called to her, "Auntie, can you tell us where this road goes?"

"From State and Nation"

Editorials from Other Newspapers—

Good Sense, But Doubtful "Politics."

From the Minneapolis Tribune.
Senator Oscar Underwood of Alabama ought to be careful not to get a reputation for too straight thinking if he really has hope of landing the democratic nomination for the presidency. Up to the present moment it has looked as if the plum would fall to a man who tries to make the rank and file believe two plus two is three instead of a man who is willing to admit that two plus two is four and stand on that fact as a campaign tenet.

We have in mind a speech Senator Underwood made the other day in Cleveland. Speaking in the capacity of an avowed candidate for the presidency, he let it be known that he is not one of those who think tax reduction can go along with the payment of a general soldier bonus. In this particular his democratic mind parts company with the minds of William G. McAdoo, William Jennings Bryan and other "deserving democrats."

Because he is of the opinion that tax reduction is the grum grum of the day Senator Underwood not only opposes a bonus, but he is in accord with President Coolidge in his position that there should be no further expansion of government activities except in such cases as may be absolutely necessary to the general welfare, and not merely desirable in the judgment of the present group.

"Bureaucracy," he says, "has been a contributing cause to the decay of Europe since the war, and it is a source of long prior to the fall of that empire. Bureaucracy has added perils to our own republic, not alone in the establishment of a government of rebarbaries, or in the enormous tax burdens, or in the loss to constructive industry of thousands of able-bodied men and women, but in the weapon afforded the political party in power with its legion of henchmen securely entrenched in its offices."

Senator Underwood is aware that we have not yet reached the apex of bureaucracy if one or more of the pending proposals for further addition to already swollen functions of government are approved.

Something must be left for additional citizens, or for communities in a civil capacity to do, if the citizenship of the United States is to be a fatal weakening of its moral fiber and an undermining of its sense of direct responsibility.

Practicality is rather too practical in his discussion of these things to limit himself to a party prophet when a political campaign is in hand. If he were less sensible he would be a more frequent candidate, and it is all too frequent that a plume bearer is permitted to crowd out a real horse in a political race.

Those officials who have given their opinions on the changed conditions believe, in most instances, that it will be impossible to determine for at least a year what is the real cost of the change. Notwithstanding this, Judge E. B. H. Gary, chairman of the board of the United States Steel corporation, summed up the results for President Coolidge the other day when he manifested itself, together with the cost of production 18 per cent. He also has expressed the view, however, that with greater efficiency and interest of the workers which have already manifested itself, together with the new inventions which are almost bound to go hand in hand with the shorter hours, makes it probable that

LISTENING IN

On the Nebraska Press

Reading in a Helpful Hints department by cutting the end off a Christmas horn a serviceable funnel could be obtained. Lew Shelley opens the editorial columns of the Fairbury News to inquire: "What the Sam Hill goes a man want with a funnel now?"

The Pierce Call insists that the politician who tries to play politics with the Mellon tax plan is barking up the wrong tree. Perhaps, but they have to bark up some tree, don't they?

John Rhoades of the Blair Enterprise waxes sarcastic. Asserts that not only must the modern school be provided with playgrounds, but it must have a sufficient number of lockers, soda and soft drink places within easy reach.

Mrs. Chattie Westlund says in the Stoughton Herald that the first robin in that city was reported by a man who never took a drink in his life. Maybe he took it through the arm.

Editor Sutherland of the Tekamah Herald explains why W. J. Bryan has not passed his hat into the presidential ring. "He has lost so many that way already," is the explanation.

Just as we thought we had conquered the air," says Mentor Brown of the Kearney Hub in a mournful tone of voice. "Hi Johnson exploded in a fresh place."

The Holdrege Citizen says a poor man's idea of a good job is a rich man's worry about paying his income tax.

"If you go to a barber shop to get your shoes shined, don't kick if your wife hushes her sewing done," is the sage advice Ole Buck hands out through the Harvard Courier.

The Fremont Tribune insists that health conditions in the United States senate must be improved. It notes that every time a grafter is brought before it for investigation he gets sick.

The Grand Island Independent has figured out that people will never be satisfied until everybody has more than everybody else.

A large part of the added costs will be absorbed in the mills. Aside altogether from this some what uncertain factor, however, and balancing it on the other side of the scale are certain indisputable facts. For instance, bank deposits in Youngstown, O., have increased during the past year approximately \$10,000,000, indicating that, with the greater satisfaction felt by the workers, they have found means of saving, despite the slightly lower wage scale which automatically followed the introduction of the shorter hours.

From Bethlehem, Pa., comes a report that the shorter day is a boon to the employer, the worker and the community. In South Chicago there has been great advancement in home conditions and Americanization among the foreign elements employed in the mills. And so on throughout the entire field. On all sides the reports which are returned show an improvement in morale, a better condition of living and happier homes. There is but little doubt that the eight-hour day is in the industry to stay.

Center Shots

The fellow who said the north pole was slipping south has lots of followers now.—Dallas News.

The neighbor women never rule out any testimony as immaterial.—Ohio State Journal.

The man who first called them say payments was a poor judge of adjectives.—Shreveport Journal.

The more you study mankind, the greater you wonder that so few go to the poorhouse.—Trinidad Pictorial.

Only 24 men are running for president of Nicaragua. But then, Nicaragua is a small country.—Jacksonville Journal.

Perhaps General Dawes will succeed in impressing members of the reparations commission with the simple fact that attending dinners here and there doesn't improve the world's finances. All the commissioners got out of their work during the past four or five years was indigestion.—Toledo Blade.

A shrewd politician is one who can convince the farmers that the law of supply and demand was passed by the other side.—Oklahoma City Times.

Nebraska

When I waken in the morning, So the eastern sky glow With the rays of God's heaven Waiting on Nebraska to bestow. I think we are most favored By his omnipotent hand Scattering the glorious sunshine On this our blessed land.

I stand upon the hilltop And view the landscape o'er, Its long reaching vistas With its mystical folk-lore, Its lakes and its rivers So beautiful to see, Its hills and its valleys Are good enough for me.

Its rich and fertile country Its springs, hills and rocks And its acres of green pasture With its grazing herds and flocks, Its broad rolling prairies So lovely in the morn, The shimmering, waving, wheat fields And rows of ripening corn.

Its dunes are a wonder With the "Gateway to the West" Where everyone is welcome And treated as a guest; The schools and institutions Where opportunities are grand For the fitting of our precious youth To take their places in our land.

With the nations in commotion And the world so full of hate, We should thank our Heavenly Father For giving us this state, Where there is peace and plenty All around to see; And the people are so happy, So joyous and so free.

In the center of the union The center of God's heart Let every man do his duty And every woman her part. To keep this as God's country Given to us in trust.

To preserve his high ideals From being trampled in the dust, So! Here to Nebraska The state I love the best, With all its glorious sunsets Painted in the west, its fine to visit countries And traveling is great But when it comes to living There's no place like our state.

RHODAS B. SEARNS, Decorator, Neb.

Very few people know that a saxophone is a very ancient music instrument, an' if it wuzn' fer slu gish, close-up dancin' it never could have come back. Miss Fern Moo says she allus hates a holiday 'cause she can't git in th' jewelry store git her wrist watch fixed.

The Spice of Life

"Why is a strong man like a found beggin'?" "Ah, madam, it is the only profession in which a gentleman can dress a beautiful lady without a formality of an introduction." Toronto Telegram.

"Is that play finished you're working on?" "It is." "Has it been produced yet?" "Yes, that's what finished it." Boston Transcript.

"How are your new false teeth?" "Best thing in the world to make a man keep his mouth shut." Louisville Courier-Journal.

You'd like to travel and perhaps free because you're kept at home—b you forget. A daily ride Earth gives to everyone And once a year a trip around the sun. Boston Transcript.

The reaper has harvested Ansel M. Pimp. And buried him deep under ground. He called his dear helpmate, Hideo Simpson. Before carefully looking around. Akron Times.

Abe Martin



Very few people know that a saxophone is a very ancient music instrument, an' if it wuzn' fer slu gish, close-up dancin' it never could have come back. Miss Fern Moo says she allus hates a holiday 'cause she can't git in th' jewelry store git her wrist watch fixed.

When in Omaha Hotel Conant

Illinois Central System Shows Why Railroads Are Interested in Tax Revision

Proposals for reductions and readjustments of federal tax levies have been made. While there may be differences of opinion as to method, there can be no doubt about the wisdom of lightening and equalizing this burden of governmental expense which is felt by every person in the country.

This tax burden is borne by those who often do not realize that they pay taxes at all. It has been estimated that one dollar out of every six spent by consumers goes for taxes—federal, state, county and municipal. Taxes, because they enter into the cost of production, are in the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the rent we pay.

Every business man who has any control over his selling prices adds his taxes to his operating costs, then not infrequently adds a little more to make it even money and passes the total on to his patrons. Taxes upon buildings are paid in the end by rents. Taxes paid by manufacturers and distributors are passed on to the consumer. As tax burdens increase the cost of living they create a demand for increased wages, and increased wages in turn are reflected in higher prices paid by everyone. Taxes are a part of the cost of conducting every form of business, and they inevitably form a part of the prices established for the goods or services produced in every field of productive industry. Regardless of who pays the taxes in the first instance, in the end they are paid by farmers, business men, mechanics, laborers and all other classes of our population.

Indirect taxes are paid by more persons than direct taxes. Among those who pay indirect taxes are the patrons of the railroads. Taxes the railroads pay are a part of the cost of supplying transportation service and must be borne by the public in freight and passenger rates. Railway taxes in 1923 amounted to \$330,000,000, 5.2 per cent of their gross earnings, or almost exactly \$3 for every man, woman and child in the United States. But the \$330,000,000 paid by the railroads in 1923 for taxes represented only their direct taxes. Indirect taxes enter into the costs of all materials and supplies used by the railroads in their operation and are necessarily passed on to their patrons.

There are now extant more than \$12,000,000,000 of tax-exempt securities. Aside from the fact that such securities allow part of our population to evade income taxation, the attractiveness of such investment has caused railway investment to appear unattractive by comparison. To the extent that the ready sale of tax-exempt securities encourages civic extravagances, it increases taxation in general and tends to saddle undue burdens upon the public. To the extent that such sale helps to keep capital out of the railroads it prevents the railroads from installing the modern facilities that increase efficiency and make possible reductions of rates.

A way must be found to change the channel of investment of owners of large incomes from tax-exempt securities into productive enterprises where the investors assume some of the risks. If it is necessary to lower substantially the surtaxes of those who have large incomes in order to encompass this change, it is in the interest of all of us to lower them. Let us not make the mistake of injuring all classes of our people by trying to punish one class.

Our purpose in making this statement is to point out to our patrons that taxes are reflected in the rates which they pay for transportation and to urge them to help themselves and also help us by putting forth every proper effort to bring about a reduction in taxes. We believe that few persons realize the extent to which freight and passenger rates are affected by direct and indirect taxation.

Constructive criticism and suggestions are invited. C. H. MARKHAM, President, Illinois Central System

SAVE ENERGY
Energy Wasted is Money Wasted.
Save energy by Saving Money in this bank
Interest at 3%
The Omaha National Bank
Farnam at 17th St.

No romance of the film is complete without a